

"I moved temporarily into *Hobble Creek Canyon*, six miles from Springville, having taken up about 80 acres of land there. For company I shared the land with Levi Callaway and he moved there with me, where we spent the summer working jointly, cultivating what land we could clear and kept a herd also. Lost all the crops by the lawlessness of wicked men turning their stock into our field and by the frost, which came uncommonly early. We did save potatoes enough for the winter and twelve bushels of wheat. In September we moved our families down out of the canyon. Bears were so plentiful we deemed it unsafe to remain."

For the next fifteen years the Indians were such a menace to the settlers that no one ventured to make a permanent home in *Hobble Creek Canyon*. Claims had been taken up as early as 1857 and 1858, but it was not until the spring of 1876 that the claims were relocated and homes again began to be established.

In March, 1879, Erastus Z. Clark bought a ranch owned by F. C. Boyer. At first he rented the ground, but later bought the property and moved his family there. Other early settlers at Oakland, as it was called, were: William Gallup, Charles J. Johnson, Alpheus Curtis, O. H. Mower, J. T. Barker, Royal Clements, Watson Houtz, Moroni Fuller, Lorenzo Whiting, Arthur C. Whiting, and their mother, Mrs. Mary Whiting, Henry Curtis, Edwin Johnson and the Crandall brothers, Milan and Myron. Cyrus Sanford and Joseph Kelley and their families settled farther down the canyon at the junction of the right and left forks. Oakland became a thriving community.

About 1894 a branch of the Latter-day Saint Church was organized with William Gallup as presiding elder. There was a Sunday School and other church auxiliaries. There were twenty-five families living there at one time with one hundred and seventy-five church members. A large one-room log house answered for church meetings, school, dances, and other public gatherings.

*William Wordsworth*, my great-grandfather, came to the place later called Springville, in 1849 with Parley P. Pratt's exploring expedition. Soon after his return to Salt Lake he was called to go to Mountainville in *American Fork Canyon* to help settle that community. This is the place now known as Alpine, the smallest incorporated city in the United States. It was first settled in the fall of 1850 by ten or twelve families who wintered there and during that period all members of the Church held meetings in the home of William Wordsworth. In the spring of 1851, some of the families moved on to other settlements but the families who remained planted crops and realized a good harvest. New settlers came in from time to time during the spring and summer months. On December 3, 1851 a meeting was held in the home of Mr. Wordsworth relative to

building a meetinghouse and schoolhouse which would take care of all public gatherings. A building committee was appointed and work was started at once on a small log structure. It was finished on January 1, 1852 and stands one-half mile north of the present meeting house in Alpine.

William was called to go on another mission to southern Utah and into Las Vegas, Nevada. On his return trip he stopped again at the place he had explored in 1849 and was very much impressed with its natural beauty. In 1858 he came to make his home in Springville and settled on ground that is now known as Kelley's Grove. He made a road up the left hand fork of Springville, then laid out a large tract of land right along the road. He opened up the canyon and dug ditches so that he could get water to his land; secured timber and had it sawed at Solomon Chase & Sons sawmill. He built a home using lumber from this canyon which was named *Wordsworth Canyon* after him.

On one occasion, preceding a 24th of July celebration when the residents of Springville were not cooperating very actively in the event, William remembered a meeting with James Bridger while they were encamped on the Little Sandy. Mr. Bridger had given them a most disheartening report of conditions in Utah concerning the growing of crops. William thought of the many blessings the Saints were now enjoying. He walked out to his beautiful corn patch, broke off an arm load of cobs, and started down the road. In his loud, clear voice he called out, "Hear ye! Hear ye!, this is the 24th of July." Men, women and children followed him and when he arrived at the City Park he delivered a patriotic speech that stirred the hearts of the people.

William Shin Wordsworth served as road supervisor of Springville for 15 years. He held the office of mayor in our municipality and also that of alderman. He died at Springville January 18, 1888.

—Donna A. Whiting

